

Honors Literature and Short Stories

Week 13

Steinbeck novel essay

As you recall from Expository Writing, each of your supporting paragraphs will begin with one of your topic sentences. All details in each paragraph will relate directly to your topic sentence, which in turn, is related to your thesis statement.

You have already chosen your topic for your essay. Each paragraph will be written using your observations of actions or behaviors or people that support your subtopics. You will integrate quotes that demonstrate examples to support your subtopics.

Sometimes when we are told that we must analyze or write about literature, we jump right in and just start writing. Instead, a good method is to sit down and think in your own mind, in your own words, why your subtopic (represented by your topic sentence) is true. What happens in the story to make you think this? What events occur? Who is involved to make this true? How do the characters interact with each other or the events to make the topic sentence true. Jot down your ideas on this. Once that is complete, look at your quotes you have chosen. Do they provide good examples of what you have written down? Perhaps you need some different ones now.

Once all of this brainstorming is complete, you are ready to do your writing of your supporting paragraphs.

- ❑ You will need to write in the third person (no “you” or “I”, “we”, “us”).
- ❑ No contractions (unless part of a direct quote from the book).
- ❑ Write in Active Voice. Remember, this is when you can identify WHO is doing the action.
 - Baseball is played in her backyard. *Passive Voice. We don't know who is doing the “playing”.*
 - The girls played baseball in her backyard. *Active Voice. The Girls are doing the “playing”.*
- ❑ You will write in the present tense.
 - If your quote is written in the past tense, that is fine – but you still introduce it in the present tense:
 - When Sam catches the thief crawling through the window, he “hid in plain sight because he thought he was safe” (16).
 - Notice that in the commentary part (the student writing) “catches” is in the present tense to introduce a quote from the book. The words “hid”, “thought”, and “was” are in the past tense, but that is fine since it is a direct quote. If this were written: When Sam caught the thief... it would be incorrect.

- ❑ When you cite a quote from your book, you will use only the page number after the end quote, but before the period as you learned in Expository Writing.

So how many quotes should you have in your paragraph? At least two – more if you can work them in well.

How many concrete details or examples should you have in your paragraph? At least three, however I expect more.

Don't forget that between your paragraphs you need a transition sentence. Often the easiest way to do this is to take a key word from the upcoming topic sentence and use it (or a synonym) in your last sentence of the previous paragraph.

Assignments

1. Write your three supporting paragraphs as discussed in this lesson. Please send them to me as you get a draft done so that I can give you feedback and ideas. Remember to include direct quotes from the book (a reminder: "quotes" does not have to mean dialogue – it simply means something taken directly from the book). **First Draft due this week. 20 points**
2. **Weekly Shorts:** Do you ever challenge the rules? Describe one instance. **5 points**
3. **Journal:** Read "Ransom of Red Chief", by O. Henry.
<http://www.online-literature.com/donne/1041/>

Refer to your Literary Techniques handout, and identify what techniques are used (and explain why and how). Respond to the following questions (you have 2 weeks for this story).

Foreshadowing is evident in the first paragraph (§1). Identify it.

What literary special effect did O. Henry use for "as flat as a flannel-cake, and called **Summit**" ?

What element of foreshadowing is evident in paragraph six (§6) or the paragraph just before the kidnappers begin to speak to the little boy?

What literary special effect is "crackle of a twig or the rustle of a leaf"?

What literary special effect is the reference to Geronmino (§13), Buffalo Bill (§13), David (§37), Goliath (§37), and King Herod (§41)?